

RUSSIA AND THE WEST IN IRAN

country. Millspaugh's enemies clearly strive toward general revolution in Iran. As for us, we shall try in a series of articles to make known Dr. Mills-paugh's achievements.

Seyyid Zia's attitude in this matter was understandable. Devoted to the preservation of the country's independence, Zia looked favor-ably on any attempt to strengthen Iranian economy, bring order into its finances, and thus increase general stability. This attitude refutes, to some extent, the allegation made by his enemies that Seyyid Zia was a leader of an utterly reactionary camp. As pointed out earlier, it was precisely the reactionaries who opposed and plotted against Millspaugh since they were anxious to preserve their privileged posi-tion against his bold reforms. On the other hand, Zia was motivated by foreign policy calculations. He believed that the presence of the mission in Iran would increase the interest of the United States in his country, and thus the powerful American democracy would be drawn into defense of Iranian sovereignty against Soviet expansion-ism. His press pointed out that fair treatment of the Millspaugh mis-sion would guarantee American economic assistance. *Ra'd-i-Emruz* emphatically warned that continuation of lend-lease supplies from the United States to Iran would depend on the kind of treatment Dr. Millspaugh received.*

Was Seyyid Zia justified in his prognostications? Was it true that the treatment of the Millspaugh mission influenced the American official attitude toward Iran? At this point the basic problem of the co-ordination of American foreign policy arises. Dr. Millspaugh in his book *Americans in Persia* states that, despite early promises of support from the State Department, none came

forth during the
crucial moments.⁵ Apparently the State Department
was of the opin-
ion that Dr. Millspaugh was an Iranian government
official. There-
fore, it was beyond their province to intervene in the
internal quarrels
between him and the Iranians. Such an attitude had its
advantages and
disadvantages. The advantage was that if Millspaugh
through his
temper made himself unpopular with various Iranian
groups, it did
not necessarily mean Iranian hostility toward the
United States as
such. On the other hand, undue toleration of
unjustified attacks and

* June 27, 1944.

⁸ Pages 218 ff.